

## The New Amberola Graphic

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## THE NEW AMBEROLA GRAPHIC

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Editor's Notes

Here we go again... we are reapplying for a second class mailing permit
with this issue. As we explained last
fall, it is absolutely necessary for us
to obtain the lower postal rates which
second class will bring in order to continue the GRAPHIC in its present form.
If the application does not go through
this time, we cannot predict just what
the future of this publication will be.

Several of you have written to request first class mail rates. Unfortunately we cannot furnish this data until our second class permit goes through so we will at long last know what our mailing costs are!

I am pleased to report we have picked up a number of new subscribers since the first of the year. In addition, the percentage of renewals is higher than it's ever been.

Your editor has been moonlighting with a series of articles for <u>Collectors</u>

<u>News</u>. The current issue contains the second instalment in a series on Blue Amberol records. The third and final chapter will appear in June.

Finally, we greet the appearance of "Jerry's Musical News" and wish publisher Jerry Madsen much success with his venture.

- M.F.B.

## Important

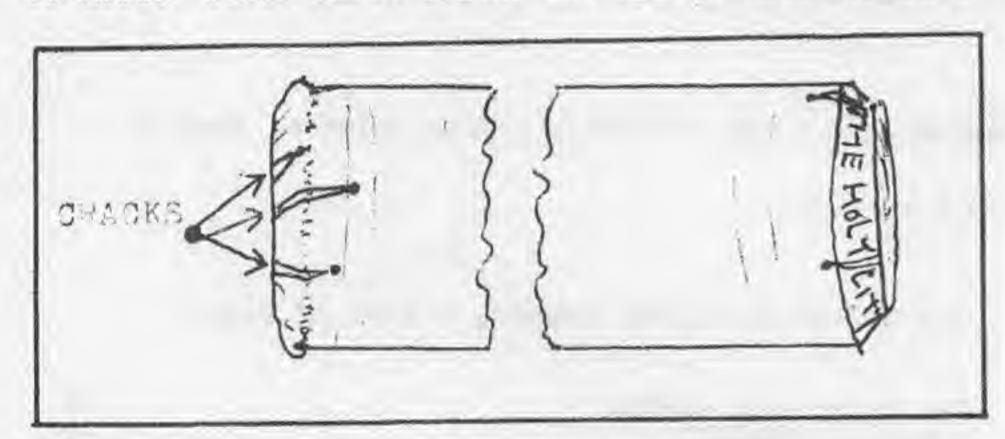
Be sure to let us know when your address changes! Further details regarding this matter are found elsewhere in this issue.

## AMAZING NEW CURE FOR THOSE "SPLIT END BLUES"

by John H. Perschbacher

Amberol cylinder records were the best example of cylinder recordings. This is certainly true. The hard, smooth celluloid surface; the clear white printing on the bright blue background; the resistance to mold and damage from accidents make the Blue Amberol the top of the cylinder line. Blue Amberols do, however, have a serious flaw. This flaw or fault is the plaster liner inside of the celluloid. Humidity (moisture) causes the plaster to swell and in so doing causes cracks or splits to begin at the ends (more often the larger or beginning end). Sometimes a cylinder can crack the entire length overnight. While the natural slight shrinkage of celluloid does assist in this problem it is the plaster that is the problem.

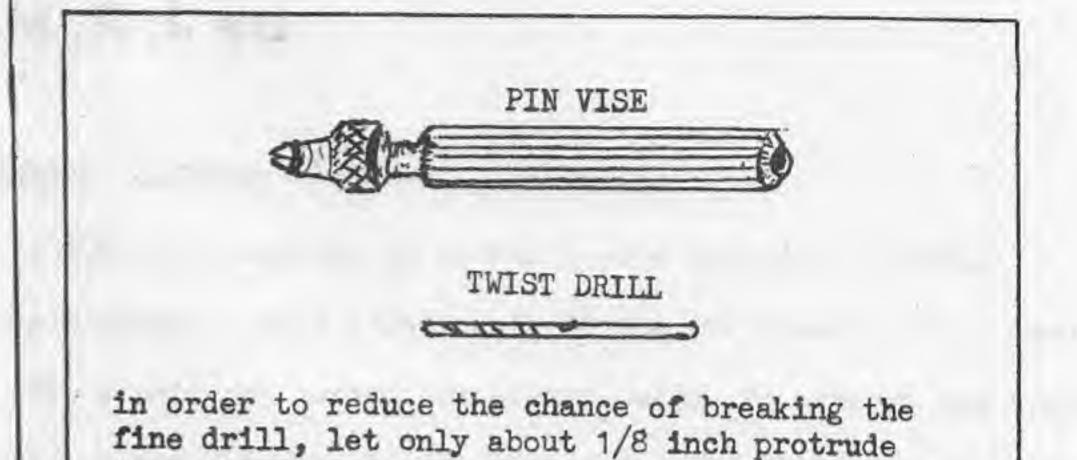
To begin with the humidity should be controlled. Storage of Blue Amberol cylinders (or any cylinders for that matter) should not be in the basement or in the attic. I use a dehumidifier to help in the summer. By the control of the humidity conditions the sudden serious cracking or splitting can be greatly reduced. Unfortunately, most Blue Amberols around now have small splits at the end, these are usually of 1/8 to 1/4 inch in length and may number as few as 1 or as high as 12 or more. These small cracks and splits have weakened



them to increase in length-sometimes spreading to the opposite end and destroying the record. To stop these splits from further advance is the nature of this article. The method to be described herein has been 100% successful for me. I began to use this method about 12 to 15 years ago and have had no damage due to splits since then. I use this method for all Blue Amberols for my collections as well as those intended for sale.

It is a known law of physics that a crack in a beam or support can be stopped and the strength of the beam restored by drilling a hole at the apex of the crack. The record collector can use this knowledge for the splitting and cracking of the celluloid in Blue Amberols. A small hole is drilled in the celluloid at the apex of the crack and the crack will not spread. This hole is not large and can only be seen under close examination. I must say at the beginning, however, that unless the humidity conditions are observed even this method will not stop splits if such humidity becomes excessive.

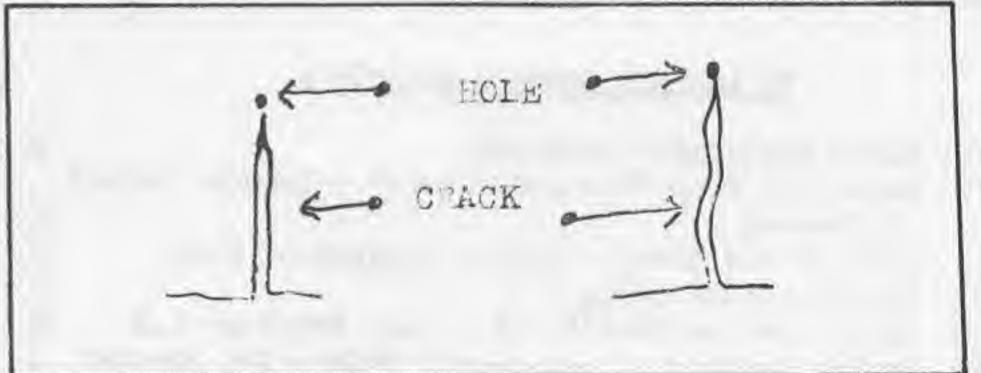
I use a small ordinary twist drill, held in a watchmaker's "pin vise" to bore or drill the small hole. The pin vise is held between the thumb and first finger and rotated in a back and forth motion. The celluloid must be drilled through but not the plaster. It is



from the vise.

wise to drill just slightly ahead of the visible apex of the crack in order to make sure the crack is caught properly. A #75 (.020) twist drill is what I use. A size or two larger or smaller is unimportant. If the split is an unusually wide one I use a larger drill. If many cylinders are to be treated I find an electric "Dremel" tool does the work in a short time. The hand held method takes but seconds, however. ALL cracks or splits must be treated and drilled no matter how small.

Pin vises and drills are purchased from jewelers and watchmakers supply houses which are located in most of the larger cities. These places will usually sell to anyone and in most cases will do so by mail. The cost of the drill bits is very small (usually \$1.00 or less); the pin vises vary from supplier to supplier but are usually \$2.00 to \$5.00. It is important to get a small pin vise—one that will properly hold the drill bit.



I might make the suggestion that the reader go and visit his local watch repairer (better still, a watch-maker). These people always have a number of the pin vises on hand and may sell you (or even give you!) one. They can also show you catalogues of the suppliers they deal with and order for you too. Some regular tool catalogues sometimes carry these small drills and pin vises as do some hardware stores.

I have done much business with S. LaRose, Inc., P. O. Box 21208, Greensboro, North Carolina 27420, and suggest them. Catalogue #116 (price \$2.50) shows pin vise #PV-659 and PV-652 at 45¢ and 70¢; drills at \$3.90 a doz.

Incidentally, this method cannot be used with wax cylinders or any surface with much thickness. Cracks in thick surfaces tend to run on a bevel and one cannot drill properly to hit the apex. I recommend this procedure only for Blue Amberols, Indestructibles, Everlasting, and similar cylinders. I have no claims to make for the use of this method on discs of any type.

## A Lambert Sampler

## by J. R. Manzo

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

Lambert cylinders were produced in Chicago from 1901 to 1905. They were all two-minute types and came in both a 2" ("standard") and 5" ("concert") size. Lamberts are generally found in shades of pink and black, but I have had reports of white, purple and brown. No liners were used in most of these, but a few black and pink ones have appeared with a cardboard liner and raised letters. Lambert was the only producer of a 5" indestructible cylinder. In researching the numbering system, it was generally found that most of the earlier numbered cylinders were only announced with the title and "for the Lambert Company of Chicago." All later cylinders give both the title and artist, along with "for the Lambert Company of Chicago."

I would like to thank all of the many collectors who have taken the time and extra effort to help make this listing possible. Trying to list all the collectors would be near impossible and I'm sure I would probably miss one. So, again I wish to thank you, because without you this partial listing would not ever have gotten this far.

Anyone having additional information or corrections, no matter how large or small, please, please, send it along. Write: Joseph R. Manzo, P. O. Box 436, Black Canyon City, AZ 85324.

CODES: P = Pink Pu = Purple B = Black Br = Brown ? = unsure of title, number, artist or color

## 5" Lambert Concert Cylinders

5010 March Boccaccio - Orchestra 5012 Selection from "The Gondoliers" - London Concert Orchestra Cock of the North - London Regimental Band 5013 5034 Little Cotton Dolly - ? 5039 Uncle Josh Weathersby at a Camp Meeting - C.S. 5055 Reuben Haskins of Skowhegan, Maine - Len Spencer 5064 Tuscalina Brown - Len Spencer 5095 Hiawatha - Harry MacDonough 5107 Heart Dowed Down - Emilio de Gogorza 5119 Uncle Josh Weathersby on an Automobile - C.S. 5120 A Baptising at Hickory Corners Church-C.S. The Difference Between a German and an Irish Picnic - Cal Stewart Down in the Deep Cellar - Theod Leo (cornet) The Two Pearls - Hicks and Jenner (cornet duet)

- Lambert Standard Cylinders

  6 Under the Double Eagle London Regimental Band
  43 Swanee River Bohemian Band
  95 Casey Riding a Bicycle ?
  150 Uncle Josh and the Lightning Rod Agent C.S.
  154 Uncle Josh at a Camp Meeting Cal Stewart
  192 Serenade Tenor and Soprano
- The Holy City Tenor 196 197 A Dream - Tenor 210 Hornpipe Medley - Clarinet Solo 218 Overture Semiramide - Lambert Military Band 234 Then You'll Remember Me - ? 245 Serenade from the Opera "Olivette" - Tenor 254 My Pretty Jane - Violin 259 Day's Dream - ? 301 Artist's Life Waltz - Band The Poet and Peasant Overture - Orchestra 311 313 A Bunch of Blackberries - Orchestra 314 March of a Gallant Knight - Band 319 Bohemian Girl - Band 326 Sweet Repose Waltz - ? 350 My Lady Lou - Tenor 367 The Nightingale Polka - Piccolo Solo 375 Il Miserere - ? Hosanna - Baritone Lam, Lam, Lam - Arthur Collins 416 Dancing on the Old Swanee - Banjo Solo The Reaper's Chorus - Brass Quartet 435 My Mary Lou - Mandolin Solo 436 The Colored Major - Mandolin Solo 439 448 She Was One of the Working Girls - Baritone 465 My Charcoal Charmer - Baritone 467 Emmett's Lullaby - Cornet Solo 468 Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep - Tuba Solo The Honeysuckle and the Bee - J. Natus 505

P

	When You Were Sweet Sixteen - ?	В		
506				
511				
513				
	Sweet Genevieve - Porter and Hiehling Pinkie - Duet			
518				
519	7	P		
520	The state of the s	B		
524	Patriotic Songs - Quartet	P		
527	The Sidewalks of New York - American Quartet			
528	The Holy City - American Quartet	B&P		
529		B		
534	a series of the	P		
535		P		
	S. H. Dudley	D		
536	On a Sunday Afternoon - Harry MacDonough	B		
537	The Whistling Coon - S. H. Dudley	P		
543	De me De maroj			
546		P		
552	Sentinel Asleep - W. F. Hooley	P P P		
554	Salome - Whistling - H. F. Rice	P		
555	Mosquito Parade - Whistling - H. F. Rice	P		
556	Mike, Mike - Steve Porter	B&P		
560	The Farmyard Medley - Quartet	В		
561	Louisiana Lou - American Quartet	P		
562	Little Darling Dream of Me - American Quartet	P		
563	Sleigh Ride Party - American Quartet	P		
564	Baby Mine - American Quartet	P		
565	When the Harvest Days are Over - American Quar			
566	Carry Me Back - American Quartet	P		
570	Coon, Coon - Collins and Natus	P		
572	Whoa Bill - Duet	P		
576	Seaflower Polka - Cornet Solo	P		
579	Ain't Dat a Shame - Collins and Harlan	P		
585	Casey's Fight - Talking	P		
588	Casey Taking the Census - Talking	P		
589	Jolly Coppersmith - Metropolitan Band	B&P		
591	Finnegan's Birthday Surprise Party - Am. Quarte			
594	Way Down Yonder in the Cornfield - American Qua	r. P		
596	Old Uncle Ned - American Quartet	P		
604	When the Birds Go North Again - Dudley & MacDono			
605	Rip Van Winkle was a Lucky Man - Arthur Collin	s P		
609	Mocking Bird - Whistling	Pu		
611	La Paloma - Francisco	P		
612	The Lost Chord - Francisco	P		
The second second	Wait - Francisco	P		
629	Where is My Wandering Boy Tonight - American Qua			
630	Nellie Gray - American Quartet	P		
634	Hearts and Flowers - Bass and Clarinet Duet	P		
636	Killarney My Creole Sue - G. J. Gaskin	P		
	Asleep in the Deep - W. F. Hooley	P		
639	Vesper Bells - Steve Porter	P		
640	Love's Dream After the Ball - Bass and Clarinet	P		
642	KillarneyMy Creole Sue-G. J. Gaskin  Asleep in the Deep - W. F. Hooley  Vesper Bells - Steve Porter  Love's Dream After the Ball-Bass and Clarinet  Abide with Me - American Quartet  P Bloom on the Rye - American Quartet  ?			
644	Bloom on the Rye - American Quartet	?		
648	My Faith Looks Up to Thee - American Quartet P			
6 PO	Thine Eyes So Blue and Tender - Metropolitan Band P			
650 653	The state of the s	444		

## ... ILLUSTRATIONS ...

Original Lambert printed matter is practically non-existent. Nevertheless, Bill Bryant has furnished an article from the May, 1900 issue of The Phonoscope. While no names are used, it obviously describes the Lambert record. In the second column are front and back of all that remains of an original Lambert supplement, also supplied by Bill. See next page.

		J
660	War Song Medley - Metropolitan Band	P
666	Creole Belles - Metropolitan Band Charge of the Red Hussars - Metropolitan Band	P
671	Double Eagle - Metropolitan Band	P
672	Washington Post March - Metropolitan Band	P
686	Wine, Women and Song - Metropolitan Band B&	P
687	Blaze Away - Metropolitan Band	B
692		P
698	The Man Behind the Gun That Guides the World -	D
702	Clarence Siegel I Love You - Harlan and Stanley	P
719		P
721	- Target - All (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981) (1981)	P
722	Down in the Cornfield - Quartet	P
723	All Aboard for Slumberville - Harlan & Stanley	P
728	Donkey Laugh - Vess Ossman Whoa Bill - Vess Ossman	P
	Hunky Dory - Vess Ossman	В
734	Sounds from Africa - Vess Ossman	P
740		P
	Creole Belle - Arthur Collins	P
	A Little Bit Off the Top - S. H. Dudley	B
	In a Hundred Fathoms Deep - ? The Woodchuck Song - Bob Roberts	B
762	The development of the second control of the	В
765		В
766		В
0.00	Holy Night - Emilio de Gogorza	P
776		PB
	I Hate to Get Up in the Mornin! - Arthur Collins	P
	Rendezvous - Band	P
785	The Gondolier - Orchestra	В
785		P
787	The Fortune Teller March - Metropolitan Band	BP
788 789	Backyard Conversation - Steve Porter An Armful of Kittens and a Cat - Steve Porter	P
791	Stay in Your Own Backyard - Steve Porter	P
793		P
795		P
801	Congo Love - Arthur Collins	P?
805	Marty Maloney's Wake - Len Spencer The Arkansaw Traveler - Len Spencer	P
807		P
809	Making the Fiddle Talk - Len Spencer	В
810		B
814	Surf Polka - F. O. Currier (cornet solo) Uncle Josh in a Department Store - Cal Stewart	P
817		100
818	Last Day of School at Pumpkin Center - Cal Stewart	P
819	I'm Old But I'm Awfully Tough - Cal Stewart B&	P
820	And Then I Laughed - Cal Stewart	B
821	Let All Obey - Geo. M. Bradley Waltz Bleue - London Concert Orchestra	P
835	Second Selection from "A Country Girl" - London	DI.
0))	Regimental Band	В
837		Pu
838	D. 1	Pu
846	Uncle Josh Weathersby in an Automobile - Stewart	P ?
847	Si Pettingill's Brooms - Cal Stewart Uncle Josh at the Circus - Cal Stewart	2
849	Jim Lawson's Horse Trade - Cal Stewart	?
850	Annanias Club - Cal Stewart	?
853	Up in a Cocoanut Tree - Billy Murray	P
854	Don't Go Away - Billy Murray	B
855	Darkies Dream - Olly Oakley	P
857		B
862		?
879		В
881	Can't Stop - Dan Quinn	B
885	Jim Lawson's Hogs - Cal Stewart	?

# The Indes

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## UARY RECORDS LAMBERT CO.

Perfected Process Indestructible

## RECORDS

Loud, Clear and Smooth Surface

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Manufactured on

CHICAGO, 12 Sherman Street.

## January Records

LAMBERT CO.

## STANDARD RECORDS

Solos by Dan. W. Quinn

Those Things Cannot be Explained

Couldn't Help it, Had to

Pat Malone Forgot that he was Dead

I Couldn't do a Thing to You

Father, Won't You Speak to Sister Mary?

Can't Stop

You Can't Think of Everything

Solos by Harry MacDonough

· He Laid Away a Suit of Gray When the Harvest Days are Over Down Where the Cotton Blossoms Grow the Moonlight with the Girl You Love

e Roses Bloom Again

. barnet

los by Arthur Collins

e Band ce I Can Hang My Hat

> Home until Morning

## RT RECORDS

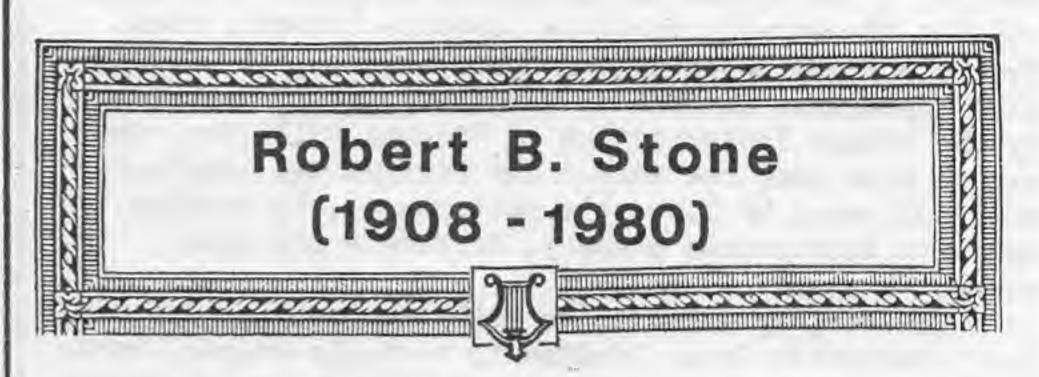
Little Maids London Concert Orchestra Banjo Solo by Ollie Oakley Piccolo Sr Eli Hudson

904	Mr. Dooley - Arthur Collins	B&P
905	Pat Malone Forgot That He was Dead - Dan Quinn	В
906	Helen Gonne - Arthur Collins	В
907	Under the Bamboo Tree - Arthur Collins	P
910	Home Ain't Nothing Like This - Arthur Collins	P
918	Good Old Summertime - Harry MacDonough	P
923	The Stein Song - W. F. Hooley	P
925	Father, Won't You Speak to Sister Mary - Dan Qui	
926	Sweet Repose - Tanner	P
928	When Kate and I - Harry MacDonough	P
932		
933	Nursery Rhymes - Collins and Harlan	P
100000000000000000000000000000000000000	Two Rubes in a Tavern - Collins and Harlan	P
934	Closing Time in a Country Grocery - Collins & Har	
937	Little Cotton Dolly - American Quartet	P
938	Fare Thee Well, Molly Darling - American Quarte	
939	In the Good Old Summertime - American Quartet	P
945	First Selection - "Toreador" - London Reg. Band	P
951	Birds and the Brook - Orchestra	P
952	The Nightingale and the Frog - Orchestra	P
956	Queen of the Burlesque - Olly Oakley	В
957	Darkies Dawn - Olly Oakley	P
961	Under the Bamboo Tree - American Quartet	В
962	I've Got My Eyes on You - American Quartet	P
964	Hiawatha - American Flower Orchestra	В
966	Chinese Honeymoon - American Orchestra	P
969	California Dance - Clarinet Solo	В
970	Polonaise Mignon - Clarinet Solo	P
974	In the Deep Cellar - Leo	P
984	Message of the Violet - Harry MacDonough	P
987	Auction Sale of Household Goods - Len Spencer	В
988		B&P
989	Good Old Wagon - Byron Harlan	
991	I Take Things Easy - Len Spencer	B P
992	Pawn Broker's Auction - Len Spencer	D
24/2000	C-H-I-C-K-E-N, That's the Way to Spell Chicken	- ?
112	Len Spencer	
900	The state of the s	P
1003	Liberty Bell March - London Concert Orchestra	P
1000	Passing of Ragtime - London Regimental Band	P
1009	I Couldn't Do a Thing to You - Dan W. Quinn	?
1011	When the Roses Bloom Again - Harry MacDonough	В
1013	Couldn't Help it, Had to - Dan W. Quinn	?
1014	Things Cannot Be Explained - Dan W. Quinn	В
	Moszkowski Serenade - S. Von Center	P
	Irish Airs - Violin	P
	You Can't Think of Everything - Dan W. Quinn	?
	Irish Jigs - John Maffay	P
	Indian War Dance - Band	P
1020	Bells of St. Malo - London Concert Orchestra	B&P
1024	Tres Jolie Waltz - London Regimental Band	P
	Stars and Stripes Forever - London Reg. Band	P
	Rabbit Hash - Billy Golden	В
	A Mixed Ale Party - Billy Golden	В
	Bye, Bye, My Honey - Billy Golden	?
	I'm Wearing My Heart Away for You - MacDonough	
1040	and Bieling	В
10/6	Kate O'Toole - Harry Macdonough	В
	American Patrol - C. P. Lowe	P
1075	Liberty Bell March - Orchestra	P

### Last Minute Arrivals and Corrections

133	My Creole Sue - Joseph Natus
971	Carnival of Venice - Pierre Leo (clarinet) (Bill
	Bryant's copy was re-molded over another item;
	traces of original announcement can still be heard!)
942	The Commemoration March - London Regimental Band (plaster lined, rubber-stamped "Patent Applied For" inside)

644 should read: The Bloom Is...
793 should read: You Couldn't Hardly...
801 should read: Congo Love Song
821 may be Broderick instead of Bradley
928 should read: When Kate and I Were Coming Through
the Rye
1014 should read: These Things...



It is our sad task to inform our readers of the untimely death of Robert Stone, frequent contributor to these pages. During his lifetime, Bob wore several different hats. As a producer of radio transcriptions at RCA in the latter half of the 30's he came in contact with many artists familiar to record collectors. After the War he went to work for WRGB, G.E.'s pioneer television station at Schenectady, where he was responsible for many "firsts" in t.v. broadcasting. In later years he hosted a radio program devoted to classical vocalists, known as "The Master Singers." The program is still aired over WAMC in Albany and perhaps other National Public Radio affiliates. He was also founder and curator of the Historical Record Archive housed at the University of New Hampshire Library.

Collectors in the northern New England area had come to know and love him through his active membership in The New England Society for the Preservation of Recorded Sound. His spirited role as club auctioneer can never be replaced. Whenever there was a lull in bidding, Bob was sure to sing a chorus or two from the record, or tell an apropos anecdote, beginning with "Did I ever tell you about the time..." We never doubted the time Vernon Dalhart had instructed him to "Call me 'Dal'."

The several manuscripts which he forwarded to us this past year will continue to appear in the GRAPHIC as a posthumous tribute to his memory.



(cont. from following page)

### Manhattan Opera Roles:

1909-10 Carmen, Tosca, Marguerite, Nedda

### Boston Opera Roles:

1910-11 Marguerite

## Chicago Opera Roles:

1910-11 Carmen, Santuzza, Giulietta (Contes d'Hoffmann), Nedda

1918-19 Carmen

## San Carlo Opera Roles:

1926-27 Carmen 1927-28 (no record)

## Neglected Edison Diamond Disc Artists

## IV: Marguerite Sylva

by Robert B. Stone

In 1926, at 18, the writer of these lines was probably --- as an apprentice first bass --- the youngest member of the Maine Festival Chorus. That year's big Festival event was one to be long remembered: a joint recital by the great mezzo-soprano Margarete Matzenauer and the 30-year-old baritone Lawrence Tibbett, fresh from his first Metropolitan Opera triumph, an unscheduled appearance as Ford in Verdi's Falstaff occasioned by the sudden indisposition of Vicente Ballester, who was to have sung the role. The recital was considerably enlivened by Tibbett's performance, in costume and with appropriate scenery, of Ford's principal scene, "E sogno? O realta?"

However, my association with the Festival was, to its irreparable loss, limited to a single season, partly from my disgust at Director William Rogers Chapman's bad manners towards soloists and choristers alike. An example: when Lloyd Gilbert, a tenor chorister, wandered off the key, Chapman shouted at him "Stop it! Stop it! You make me nervous!" Whereupon Gilbert stalked out of rehearsal, never to return, and later

became a light opera star.

Another Maine Musical Festival which I remember with particular pleasure occurred in the year 1922, when on October 7 it brought soprano Marguerite Sylva to Portland for a performance of Carmen, a role she is reputed to have sung over 600 times. The only other names I recall for that performance after a lapse of 57 years were those of Helen Yorke, a charming Micaela (and a Pathé recording artist) and tenor Justin Lawrie (a former neighbor of mine in Lewiston), who should have been singing Don José in place of the nonentity who was assigned to it, but contented himself with an amusing impersonation of the smuggler chieftan, El Dancairo (he later made two early electrical sides for Columbia).

Even at the tender age of 14, I realized that in Sylva I was witnessing an extraordinary characterization; personally attractive, making the most of every dramatic opportunity, and liberally endowed with that imponderable known as personality. In short, she dominated every scene in which she appeared; and, as you know, Carmen is on stage for the greater part of the

opera.

I have since learned that Marguerite Sylva was born at Brussels in 1876. The details of her vocal training and operatic apprenticeship are unknown to me; she was rumored to have been "discovered" in 1896 by Gilbert and Sullivan. It may be no coincidence that this was the year in which their final collaboration The Grand Duke (and their only failure, barring the abortive Thespis of 1871-72, their first joint effort) was produced, in which Sylva may well have been a member of the cast. Two years later, she played an opera diva in the world premiere of Victor Herbert's The Fortune Teller in New York. After a decade of light opera and recita activity, she was engaged by Oscar Hammerstein for the final season of the Manhattan Opera (1909-10). In his biography of Hammerstein, J F Cone reports that "Marguerite Sylva made her highly successful debut as Carmen. She was an immediate favorite. Later she sang Santuzza, Nedda, Tosca and Marguerite, always to growing acclaim." Also writing of that season, Irving Kolodin says, "The Manhattan repertory in-

troduced a number of artists of quality, among them Marguerite Sylva, who sang both Nedda and Santuzza in a double bill."

Of those days, another New York critic recalls that "Miss Sylva's voice is remembered as a soprano of sympathetic, often beautiful quality, and a low range of unusual power and dramatic potency. She sang with taste and spirit, with charm and even distinction."

When Hammerstein sold out to the Metropolitan in 1910, Sylva was approached by both the Boston and Chicago Opera managements. In her history of the Boston Opera Company, Quaintance Eaton writes that "Sylva's first appearance as Marguerite ... was dutifully labeled 'praiseworthy,' a lukewarm adjective for this vibrant creature, who was later to earn from Philip Hale the nomination for the most distinguished and vivid Carmen in Boston since Calvé."

After a busy season in Chicago, Sylva returned to New York in 1911 to sing the soprano lead, Zorika, in the American premiere of Franz Lehar's operetta Zigeunerliebe (Gypsy Love). After a long and successful run of the performance in New York and on tour, she formed her own company, with which she sang exclusively until the Chicago Opera engaged her for two guest performances of Carmen during the 1918-19 season. Her last recorded appearances in opera were with the San Carlo Company during the two seasons from 1926 to 1928. She died in Glendale, California, in 1957 at the age of eighty-one.

Unfortunately for record collectors in general, Sylva recorded only for Edison, and only a scant dozen releases were the result (probably one of the many errors of judgment which keeps the recorded legacy of so many prominent Edison artists to such an exasperating minimum).

Under the circumatances, I shall depart from my usual custom and list all Sylva recordings, both cylinder and disc:

## Cylinders (4-minute Amberol):

FREISCHUTZ: Grand Air (B183) 1910 CARMEN: Habanera (B189) PAGLIACCI: Ballatella (B194) CARMEN: Seguidilla (40017) LE CID: Pleurez, mes yeux (40021) FAUST: Air des bijoux (40024)

GYPSY LOVE: Melody of Love (28001) 1911 Love is Like the Rose (w. Albro) (28002)I Will Give You All for Love (28003)

There is a Land of Fancy (w. Haydn) (28004)

## Diamond Discs:

(82039)CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA: Voi lo sapete 1913 (82039)HERODIADE: Il est doux, il est bon

(continued on preceeding page)

Mme. Syla as she appeared on the cover of a popular 1919 song.

(PIPULAR-EDITION)



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Song

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MUSIC BY

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HELP! COLLECTOR OF MILITARY (CONCERT) BAND and wind and percussion solos, duets, etc., is in last stages of compiling Victor Company catalogue. Needs many records. Send lists with prices or ask for lists of wants. Need 7", 8", 10", 12", 14" sizes. Particularly need "Consolidated Talking Machine", pre-dog "Eldridge Johnson", Monarch, DeLuxe types and educational. Also seek other labels: American, 7" Berliner (all performers), Columbia, Brunswick, Buzy Bee, Climax, Cort, D & R, Diamond, Edison, Emerson, Federal, Gennett, Lakeside, Leeds, Little Wonder, Lyric, Marconi, Oxford, Pathe, Puritan, Rex, Silvertone, Star, Zonophone, etc. Cylinders too. Write: Frederick P. Williams, 8313 Shawnee St., Philadelphia, PA 19118

Auction Lists of Records - All types but mostly pre-1930's popular, some Red Seal, etc. Free list. RECORDS, R. 1, Vestal, NY 13850

Wanted: Cylinders and disc records by Irene Franklin in good condition. Also, song sheets and other paper items relating to Franklin. Dolores Stender, 802 Berlin Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

Buying, selling, and trading original phonograph and record literature. Write: The Paper Horn, Darrell Lehman, 8235 Interlake North, Seattle, 98103.

Send me your want list of 78's, 45's, LP's. Ask for available records by artists. For \$1.25 receive "Ideas on Beginning a 78's Record Collection" -Frederick P. Williams, 8313 Shawnee St., Philadelphia, PA 19118.

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Please let us know when your address changes. It costs us 25¢ every time a postmaster notifies us of an address change, and that's all we get for our quarter; the GRAPHIC gets thrown in the trash. After this issue we will no longer replace (free of charge) copies of the N.A.G. which don't get delivered because we were not notified of address changes by subscribers.

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"CITY OF CHAMPIONS"

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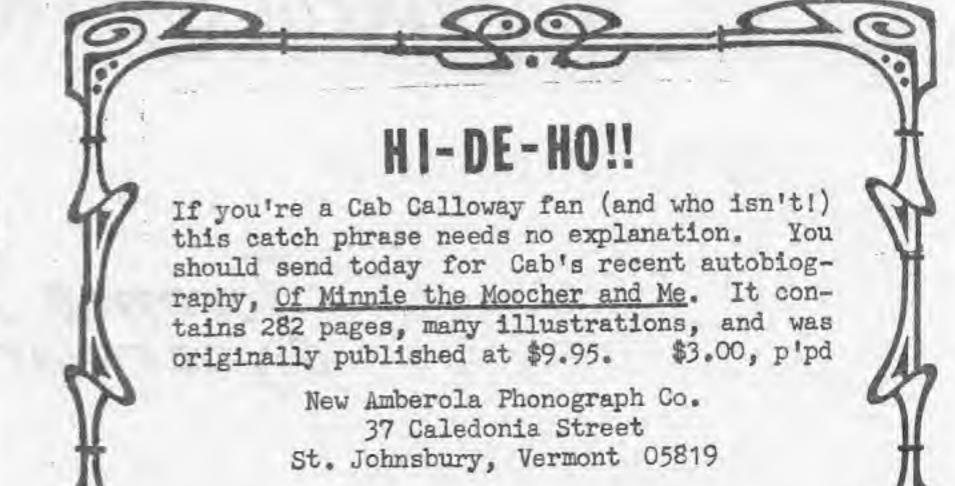
EDISON BLUE AMBEROL RECORDS 1912-1914 (American Popular Series)

A limited edition book not to exceed 750 copies. Hard bound in blue cloth containing many pictures of artists, wax matrix comparison charts, color plates of Blue Amberol records and boxes, and most of all, over two hundred reprints of the record slip texts found inside the record boxes. In addition, there will be a list of 75 "live" Blue Amberols released during the dubbed years 1915-1929. Approximately 300 pages; 82 x 11.

If you want to be notified when the hand-numbered copies are available, drop a post card to

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What is a Beefy-T"?



## Carson Robison Discography part 3: Victor and Beyond Compiled by Robert D. Morritt

	(Frank In	Bud Billings Trio	- Land		
53050		ther, Carson Robison & Phil Co		MISCELLANEOUS LABE	<u>L</u> <u>S</u>
53051	The second secon	Settin' by the Fire Wolf at the Door	23556 23556	Banner	
				(see Plaza-ARC)	
	/	The Blue Jeans		Broadcast Twelve	
		ther, Carson Robison & Phil Co	row)	Pearl Pickens with Carson Robison and His Pi	ioneers
57712	12/15/30	Bidin' My Time	23036	Home on the Range	3254
	Carson R	obison's Kansas City Jack-Rabl	bits	Sing Another Line	325
53969 53970		Stuff Nonsense	V-38082 V-38082	Carson Robison and His Pioneers Climbin' Up the Golden Stairs Darling Nellie Gray	3318 3318
		Carson Robison			
Mada	10/0/01			Bluebird	
37111 37112	12/8/26	Nola Whistle-itis	20382 20382	Dalhart and Robison	
				Golden Slippers	B-6406
9130	1/29/30	Naw, I Don't Wanta Be Rich	V-40226	Billings (Luther) and Robison Will the Circle Be Unbroken?	B-6406
9131		Don't You Believe It	V-40226	Carson Robison Remember Pearl Harbor	B-11414
	Fra	nk Luther and Carson Robison		We're Gonna Have to Slap the Dirty Little Ja	p B-11414
(as B	Bud Billin	gs & Carson Robison - see issu	ue no. 29)	I'm in the Army Now Get Your Gun and Come Along	B-11415
2228	4/4/31	When the Sun Goes Down in a I		Mussolini's Letter to Hitler	B-11459
2229	4/4/31	Prairie Town Ma and Pa	22997 22997	"Here I Go to Tokio" said Barnacle Bill, the	B-11459
				Sailor	B-11460
	Misc	ellaneous Unreleased Victors		"1942 Turkey in the Straw" The Story of Jitterbug Joe	B-11460 B-11527
		Carson Robison		It's Just a Matter of Time Plain Talk	B-11527 B-11546
2637	5/15/25	The Hawaiian Vamp (vocalist International Novelty Orches	with	Don't Let My Spurs Get Rusty While I'm Gone	B-11546
	4/5/26	Just Whistle	stra)	The Old Gray Mare is Back Where She Used to I'm Goin' Back to Whur I Come From	Be 30-0808 30-0808
5282	4/5/26	Strummin' the Blues Away		That Dame	33-0518
		ank Luther and Carson Robison		1945 Mother	33-0518
4816	11/26/30	The Whistle Boys		Broadway	
	Cars	on Robison and His Buckaroos		(see Plaza-ARC)	
		So I Joined the Navy		Brunswick	
		I'm Leavin' on That Blue Rive The Candlelight in the Window		Carson Robison	
102242	2 6/19/36	There's a Bridle Hangin' on		I Don't Wanna Be Rich	44
	A STATE OF THE STA	Ramblin' Cowboy I Was Born in Old Wyomin'		So I Joined the Navy	44
102245	5 6/19/36	Happy Go Lucky		Vernon Dalhart and Carson Robison When You're Far Away	323
		Texas Dan I Left Her Standing There		Just a Melody	323
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	Car	son Robison and His Pioneers	4	When the Moon Shines Down Upon the Mountain & Sup	149, 374 ertone 201
7007				The House at the End of the Lane	121, 383
72231 72232		The Cowboy's Prayer Meet Me Tonight in the Valley	у	My Blue Ridge Mountain Home 121, 3839 & Sup	ertone 201 ertone 201 ertone 201
*More	Victors	to be listed under Bluebird as	nd R.C.A.*		. next pag

## Off The Record; or "Play That Part Again!"

A Column dedicated to those noble recordings which are somewhat less than perfect.

In our last issue, we inaugurated this department with the infamous Farrar-Caruso Madama Butterfly duet in which Farrar supposedly sings "He's had a highball." We want to caution readers against taking this tale seriously, as much has been documented which refutes the entire incident. Leigh Martinet draws our attention to the July, 1950 issue of The Record Collector, in which much evidence (including a portion of a letter from Miss Farrar herself) is given against the whole affair. Mr. Martinet adds:

For an indisputably "less than perfect" Caruso recording, listen to his 1902 recording of "Luna fedel" by Denza (G & T 52442, HMV-VA 9; LP: Seraphim 60146, Rococo 2), in which Caruso makes a "false start" in the second musical phrase, and after singing the first syllable too soon, quickly catches himself, repeating it on the proper beat of the music."

Joseph Sedlar informs us that Aida Favia-Artsay also did a rather thorough job of refuting the episode in the February, 1973 Hobbies. Readers who wish to pursue the matter further will undoubtedly have better luck locating the Hobbies issue than The Record Collector.

Louis Harrison tells us that the duet can also be heard on a Victrola lp, "The Met's First 'Butterfly'" (VIC-1600).

We must remember that the original disc was made acoustically in 1908 and that the Italian "si per la vita" did not record clearly and distinctly. There's still the temptation, though, to fancy that for one brief moment the famous soprano was wreckless and naughty! Perhaps this is why the legend has refused to die even after 40 years of circulation. (Indeed, a Victor recording engineer was one who gave the story credence!) Tell ten people to listen to Farrar sing "He's had a highball" and nine of them will respond the same way: "Hey! she really did sing that. Play that again!"

In a lighter vein, the unexpected background noise never fails to endear the record to its owner. On more than one occasion Victor was plagued by a steam whistle. George Blacker's favorite is Amelita Galli-Curci's "Twilight" ("Crépuscule") on Victor 64807, take 1. The same take may very likely have been issued as double-sided no. 632. Approximately half a minute into the recording can be heard an unmistakable "toot-tooooooot."

Your editor has gotten into the habit of letting every record play through to the last groove after hearing a clear steam whistle blow in the otherwise blank grooves at the end of Victor 18238, take 1, of "There's Egypt in your Dreamy Eyes" sung by Lambert Murphy under his Raymond Dixon pseudonym. One of our readers recalls reading somewhere that the whistle of the Campbell Soup Company factory was the source of much annoyance at Victor.

Poor Rev. J. M. Gates managed to get through to the final verse of his "Death's Black Train is Coming" on Columbia 14145-D (take 2) when someone outside started blowing an auto horn. Following his last words: You better put your house in order, For the train may be here tonight

can be heard one final "ooooooga." Good thing it wasn't Victor's steam whistle, for the preacher may have become overwhelmed by his own prophecy!

The following paragraph comes from reader Arthur Paré. It had been typed for the last issue but was omitted due to space limitations. It is purely coincidental that it duplicates some information which appears in the April issue of Hobbies.

## Reader Arthur Paré writes:

Every time I come across a record which is supposedly a duplicate, I carefully check it against the other copy or copies in my collection. Usually there is no noticeable difference, even when two takes are issued, but I always get excited when I find one that has some differences. I am still looking for different takes of two Edison Diamond Discs in which mistakes occur, to see if they were the same on all versions. On "Snow Deer", Edison Diamond Disc 50516-R (Matrix 6389-A) Ada Jones goofs at one point and sings "Snow Boy" instead of the title words, and goes off pitch (sharp) at the same time. Edison Diamond Disc 51472-L (Matrix 9916-B) "Gotta Getta Girl" by the Quixy Four features a bass who echoes the quartet several times. Just before the song ends, the quartet sings "Wind up the clock, put out the cat". Earlier he sings the echo correctly "Wind up the clock", but the last time he sings "Wind up the cat!!" If you have these on different takes, check them to see if these mistakes occur.

Do you have any favorites which we may include in this column?

## Carson Robison, cont.

Kanawha Singers (Dalhart & Robis Golden Slippers	189 & Supertone 2040
Dalhart, Robison and Hood Sing On, Brother, Sing	149 & 3743
Frank Luther and Carson Robison Do You Still Remember? I Tore Up Your Picture When You Blue Lagoon Old Kentucky Cabin Goin' Back to Texas The Utah Trail Woman Down in Memphis The Railroad Boomer	Said Goodbye 4052 4222 4222 4296 4296 4648 4648
Wendell Hall with Carson Robison I'm Tellin' the Birds, Tellin' t Love You	
Regent Club Orchestra (Carson Ro Falling in Love with You	bison. whistling) 3350

to be continued

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Hogan's Out of Work U.J. in Central Park U.J. at Castle Garden Uncle Sam to George Laughing Coon U.J. on the Ohio

Deacon Coopley's Chicken Raid U.J.'s Visit to Philadelphia Hoosier Hollow Quilting Party U.J. at the Statue of Liberty Jersey Sam & the Farmer Man Christening of a Chicken U.J.'s Arrival in Poughkeepsie U.J. Goes to the Stock Exchange U.J. at the Weather Bureau U.J. on a Steamboat Excursion Difference Between a German/Irish Picnic

ALSO ANY UNCLE JOSH "PUNKIN CENTRE" STORY BOOKS -POSTERS - OR ???

I ALSO NEED THE FOLLOWING BILLY MURRAY'S ON BLUE AMBEROL:

5656 - Doin' the Raccoon 2048 - Alexander's Ragtime Band

1587 - Everybody 5668 - Gay Caballero

3720 - Can You Tame Wild 2515 - In Siam Wimmen

1906 - Rum Rum Tiddle 3089 - Here Comes the Groom 3456 - Further it is From 3953 - Sahara

2026 - That Tango Tokio Tipperary 3424 - When You Hear a Raggy 2136 - Tra, La, La

1997 - You'll Do the Same Thing Over Again

2507 - I Want to Go Back to Michigan

2868 - When the Right Girl Comes

2655 - Are You the O'Reilly

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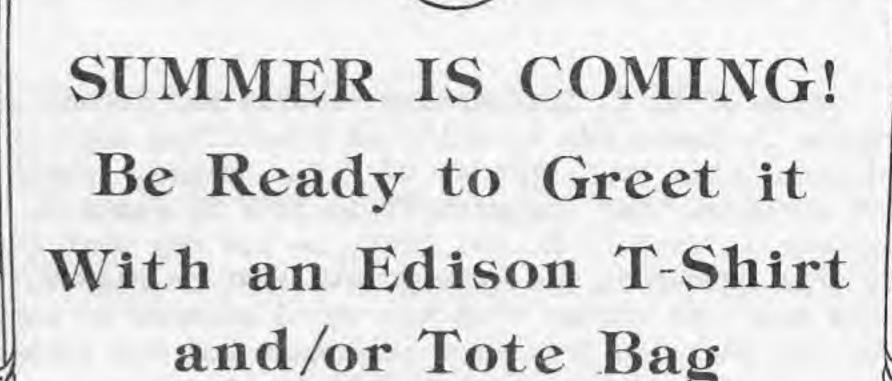
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### THANK YOU

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This is Haynes' trade name for their heavier than average cotton t-shirt. (Most other manufacturers call this weight a "polo shirt.") When you order one of our Beefy-Ts you are assured of a better grade product, comparably priced with lighter weight specialty shirts.





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A beautiful, bright yellow Haynes 100% cotton "Beefy-T" t-shirt with 1905 Edison drawing in bold black.

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When you visit the flea markets, you won't have to recite your interests for every dealer --- your t-shirt will talk for you!

## The Bag

We have had a nifty canvas tote bag created with the same 1905 Edison design screened on both sides. Design is printed in black on natural canvas duck bags measuring 14 x 16. Just right for carrying records!



\$5.50 ea.; 2 for \$10.75; ea. add'l bag \$5.00

Both items are printed by professional screeners who use only the finest materials. Prices include postage.

The New Amberola Phonograph Co. St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 37 Caledonia St.

## HERE & THERE

Fans of U. S. Everlasting records may recall our article in issue #24 in which we identified certain Indestructible cylinders as of U.S. origin. Frank Moon confirms that Indestructible 3298 by James F. Harrison is from U. S. no. 2648, so you may want to add this number in the appropriate slot on page 9. He notes that the number 1648 has the 8 stamped on top of a 9, but that the 8 is more prominent and was stamped last. Can any other readers fill in one or more of the remaining blanks?

Lane Audio & Records offers GRAPHIC readers two interesting and informative flyers entitled "Some Common Questions and Answers on 78's" and "Questions and Answers on 78 Cartridges and Styli." They will be sent free of charge if you enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope and write them at Box 29171, Los Angeles, CA 90029.

A Portland, Maine newspaper carried the following Associated Press story last January:

DALLAS--Former actress Rhea MacAdams is 94 years old now and lives in a retirement home, but she remembers a recording date nearly 75 years ago with Thomas Edison.

At the time, Mrs. MacAdams was a young actress using the stage name "Rachael Acton." She said Edison saw her perform at the Empire Theater in a play called "Forest Flower."

"Edison said he liked my voice and diction,"
Mrs. MacAdams said recently, "and that he needed me to do some work with him.

"He called me 'little Girl'," she recalled.
The "work" was testing a voice recording device which Edison hoped to synchronize with
"moving Photographs."

While on this subject, Lou Holtz was interviewed for Bill Smith's 1976 book, The Vaudevillians. He and his wife were working with Elsie Janis at the Palace in 1914. He recalled:

I'll tell you something funny. Another big thing on the bill was a new kind of talking picture invented by Thomas A. Edison. As I recall it, nobody thought much of it, one way or another.

Both Mrs. MacAdams and Mr. Holtz were referring, of course, to the Kinetophone--a system which synchronized a giant Blue Amberol record with a projected motion picture.

## ~~~~~~

Are you playing your records at the proper speed? What an absurd question! Yet so many collectors insist on running their machines much too fast, giving singers an unnatural, high-pitched sound. It may surprise them to learn that singers 60, 70 and 80 years ago had voices much like ours today - they didn't all sound like Will Oakland in them days!

If you play your 78's at exactly 78 r.p.m. and

they still sound too high pitched (or low, for that matter), it's no sin to change the speed till a more natural effect is achieved. The beauty of a variable speed turntable is that every record can be adjusted to sound correct. The 1919 Victor catalogue warned:

Set the regulator so that the turntable of your Victrola revolves seventy-eight times per minute, and never change it...

You will, of course, meet the man who insists on turning the regulator of his Victrola up and down, thus changing the speed with each record he plays. Don't imitate him-he is wrong. Only at a speed of seventy-eight can you hear the actual tones of the singer or player just as they were recorded.

Just two years earlier, however, the same warning used the speed of <u>seventy-six</u>; yet approximately 80% of the 1919 catalogue was the same as in 1917! This reminds one of the Bert Williams song "You Can't Trust Nobody."

In some rare instances, records were intentionally recorded at improper speeds with deception in mind. Vera Guilaroff's 1926 piano solos of "Maple Leaf Rag" and "Calico Rag," recorded in Montreal and issued here by Pathé-Perfect, give the listener the impression that Miss G. could break all records for speed and dexterity. The selections were actually recorded somewhere in the vicinity of 60 r.p.m!



An unusual label from the Steve Ramm collection

Can a 60 year old record timely in 1980? Just play the Billy Murray record of "Profiteering Blues" (Victor 18666) and see what you think!

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Madison enthusiasts: Data still continues to trickle in. We hope to assemble all the information you've sent us into something which approaches a logical form sometime this summer.

## Club & Society News

The Northwest Phonograph Society is a loosly-knit organization of collectors in the Vancouver (B.C.)-Seattle-Portland area. Official meetings are held "whenever two or more are gathered together." For further details, write either Kenneth Cheatham (President), 2308 Harney Street, Vancouver, WA 98660 or Darrell Lehman (Secretary/Treasurer), 8235 Interlake North, Seattle, WA 98103.

Oliver Brauer reports that the first get-together of collectors in the Baltimore area last February was a huge success. "Our aim was to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of pre-1950 music, specifically 1920's-1930's era, to which there was 100% approval. A suggestion was brought forward to use the clout that a group would have to try and get some of this good music on local airwaves.

"We had two distinguished guests. Mr. Guy Travers, a local radio-television personality since the 1930's, talked about the Ray Noble band of which he is an authority. Mr. Emmett Smith, a local radio man (who at 74 years old was our oldest participating member) has been 'in radio' since the crystal set and battery days.

"Thirty-one collectors showed up with a lot of enthusiasm. I heard remarks like 'This is 10 years overdue' and 'Why didn't we do this years ago?' Plans were made to visit the Edison National Historic Site this year as a group.

"The meeting was scheduled for 8 to 11 but lasted until 1:30 A.M., ending with a discussion on styli for playing 78's on modern turntables."

Area residents interested in future meetings can contact Ollie directly by calling him at (301) 665-8149 between 4 and 9 P.M.

The Country Music Foundation Library and Media Center announces the opening of its new Audio Restoration Laboratory, an outstanding addition to the technical capabilities of Nashville's music industry.

The Laboratory is the most sophisticated facility in the United States for restoring the sound on prestereo recordings to its original quality. Designed and built by Art Shifrin, a leading sound restoration authority, the Foundation's Audio Restoration Laboratory is the result of over 18 months of planning and construction.

In addition to handling Country Music Foundation sound restoration projects, the Laboratory will be available to outside companies for commercial uses. The Laboratory will be especially useful to record companies involved in reissuing historical recordings.

"Our Laboratory is capable of producing master tapes from original recordings, test pressings, transcriptions, and early tape masters," said Danny Hatcher, the Country Music Foundation's Deputy Director for Library Operations.

The Audio Restoration Laboratory has complete variable speed, two-track recording capabilities for quarter-inch tape. Its basic mastering machines are full-track mono. The lab contains over 30 pieces of equipment, some of which was custom-designed for the Country Music Foundation. The lab includes two mastering machines, sound filtering and equalization equipment, spe-

cial styluses for different record groove sizes, turntables, and noise suppression units designed especially for audio restoration work.

Bill Ivey, Director of the Country Music Foundation, said, "A primary use of our Audio Restoration Laboratory will be for our Library and Media Center to preserve the sound on materials that are deteriorating. The best example of this is acetate radio transciptions which literally fall apart with the passing of time.

"Secondly, we hope this lab, by being in the center of the country music recording undustry, will stimulate the re-release of historical material in the country field. Country music has lagged behind jazz in reissuing historical recordings, and we'd like to spark an interest in this area.

"Thirdly, through licensing, leasing, and other cooperative arrangements, the Foundation hopes to reissue some historical recordings on its own label."

Ivey added that "with the holdings of our Library, our staff's knowledge, and the technical resources of our audio lab, we can help any record label develop reissues of their own product. This means we can do everything from developing a concept for an album and choosing selections, to producing master tapes."

Engineer Alan Stoker will operate the Audio Restoration Laboratory for the Country Music Foundation Library and Media Center.

The Association for Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) has announced that its 14th Annual Convention will be held in Ottawa, May 8-10, 1980. This year's meeting is being hosted by the National Library and Public Archives of Canada, and will be held at their facility.

. . . . . . . . . . . .

Tentatively scheduled are presentations of current research into classical, popular and ethnic recording history, the preservation and duplication of early recordings, the early history of the recording industry in the U.S.A., and present-day (LP) reissue practices regarding historic recordings. Film, audio and equipment presentations are planned. A full list of speakers and topics will be announced at a later date.

ARSC is a non-profit organization of institutions, private collectors and others interested in all aspects of recorded sound. Its purposes are to encourage the preservation of historic recordings; research and exchange of information; and to create an increased awareness of the role of recorded sound in our cultural heritage.

Among the Association's major activities since its foundation in 1967 have been publication of an annual Bibliography of Discographies, listing all discographies published throughout the world in all fields of music; a cooperative venture between major libraries to produce a unified listing of their record holdings and source materials; and a program, in cooperation with Greenwood Press, to sponsor the publication of booklength works on recorded sound.

ARSC also publishes its own <u>Journal</u>, containing research into many fields and eras of recording; a member's Newsletter; and an annual Bulletin/Membership List. Membership in ARSC, which includes subscription to these three periodicals, is \$10 per year and is open to all. Members and non-members alike are invited to attend its convention.

For more information, contact: Les Waffen, Executive Secretary, ARSC, P. O. Box 1643, Manassas, VA 22110, (202) 523-3267.

May we have news of your organization for this department? If there isn't a record/phono club in your area, can we help you start one?

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1924-1934

Many artists sang with this Company who did not appear with the San Francisco Opera, including Rosa Raisa, Ulysses Lappas, George Baklanoff, Maria Kurenko and Charles Hackett.

Price same as above.

Published by Mr. Bishop CAMPANINI, TAMAGNO, DE RESZKE, CARUSO---A Critics Estimate

This is a reprint of chapters from a book by Henry T. Finck entitled "Success in Music and How It is Won." Printed in 1907.

Price including Postage and Handling----\$4.25

THE MANHATTAN OPERA COMPANY
Prospectus for the 1909-1910 Season
This is a replica. List of singers and operas to be performed. Hammerstein also takes a slap at the Metropolitan.

Price including Postage

Price including Postage and Handling----\$1.75

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## Wanted: 78 rpm Irish Records

John Kimmel, accordion. Zon-o-phone no-4023, 4026, 5058, 5059, 5331, 5332, 5333, 5184, 5996, 6006. Victor no-21596. Cylinder no-9761, 9881, 10071, 10172, 10284, 10417.

Peter J. Conlon, accordion. Columbia no-33032, 33285, 33307, 33318, 33322, 33349, 33435

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